[English]

"Who Reports on River Pollution"

5448. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation in its report has brough out the great danger to health posed by Indian rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). The World Health Organisation in their report on "Global Pollution and Health" have pointed out the high levels of organic and fecal pollution caused by the discharge of untreated sewage in parts of Asia including India. They have also indicated the possibility of the consequential health effects.

(c) and (d). The Government have already taken various steps for the prevention, control and abatement of river pollution which include the following:

(i) Effluent standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) A network of ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iv) Prosecutions have been launched against some of the industries causing river pollution;

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided and loan facilities made available for installation of pollution control equipment;

(vi) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and to provide loans to large and medium scale units under the World, Bank assisted programme.

(vii) The Central Government have issued a notification in consultation with the State Governments requiring industries to meet the effluent standards within a time-frame;

(viii) A special project was taken up to bring about improvement in the water quality of the Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan.

Mismanagement in Ranthambore National Park

5449. DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tigers and dear are likely to be endangered in the Ranthambore National Park due to negligence in the management of the Park; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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